

FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation can be implemented with existing resources

FINDING

Interviews with Board members revealed mixed opinions about satisfaction with information provided by the Department of Public Instruction. Most Board members said they were satisfied with the information they received from the state agency concerning Board meeting agenda items; other Board members expressed concerns about agenda items. Several commented that DPI staff members were always helpful in providing information requested by individual Board members.

There did appear, however, in some of the Board comments, a lack of ease with the information being received. The unease may derive from Board members, as lay persons, having to deal with issues and procedures that are very complex. Also, some Board members may not be familiar with the kind of information that would be most helpful.

The State Superintendent said she believed that most Board members are satisfied with the information provided by DPI staff on meeting agenda matters. She also added that DPI employees are very responsive in providing ad hoc information that Board members request.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation 3-15:

Advise the Department of Public Instruction on information that the State Board needs to receive for monitoring the state agency's effectiveness.

DPI needs to be more proactive in soliciting information from the State Board on the kind of data it desires. Board dissatisfaction with the type of information it receives is not in the interest of the State Board nor the Department of Public Instruction. Unless the concern is addressed periodically, it can lead to frustration and mistrust. Currently, many Board members have positive attitudes toward information they receive in response to ad hoc inquiries. However, the mixed feelings felt by some over agenda material should be addressed.

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North Carolina statutes require many types of statewide data and the publication of reports. In recent years, as a consequence of federal initiatives with *No Child Left Behind*, all state departments of education have collected increased amounts of data. Most states are in varying stages of developing a data warehouse system and unique student identifiers so that sophisticated types of collection and reporting of data can be used to inform policymaking and policymakers.

